

# NATIONAL SCIENCE SEMINAR

Ever since 1982, the National Council of Science Museums has been organising the National Science Seminar for school students from all the States and Union Territories of the country. This year's topic was fixed up as 'Tomorrow's Habitat' in view of global concern over the growing biodegradation of today's habitat. Man, one of the finest products of evolutionary process, has caused severe changes on the surface and in the atmosphere of the earth in his quest for short term gains.

habitat elsewhere in the solar system to protect life - the unique experiment of nature in the whole of the known universe, from any danger of extinction due to some extraneous factor - however remote that possibility might be.

What will be the structures and forms of these habitats? Will they be in the form of sky scrapers or geodesic domes? Inter-connected spheres or massive pyramids? Floating platforms or honeycomb colonies? Rotating gigantic



Giving free rein to their imagination ten thousand youngsters from schools of all the States and Union Territories involved themselves in discussions on the issue, before audiences of about 2 1/2 lakhs of people. Successive stages of block, district and state level seminars finally left 32 contestants for the final round of discussions



If this state continues, the earth with its flora and fauna faces unmitigated disaster. The Earth Summit at Rio recognised this fact and made concerted step towards protecting our natural habitat for the future generation.

In addition to the need for an appropriate habitat in this planet, there seems to be a growing concern for a good

wheels or huge hollow cylinders?

What will be the new kinds of techniques and plans for building materials, energy requirements, wastes recycle, arrangement of power supply, rapid transportation, man-power managements, and social and cultural set-up in tomorrow's habitat?



# Capsule 27

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## ICOM: REFLECTING GLOBAL CONCERNS

### INDIANS AT THE HELM

Dr Saroj Ghose, Director General of the National Council of Science Museums in India, has been elected as the President of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) for the triennial period 1992-95. The election was announced in the General Conference of ICOM in Quebec City in Canada on September 26.

A recipient of Padmasree, Indra Gandhi award from the Indian National Science Academy, Hari Om Trust award from the University Grants Commission, Dr Ghose is known in the country for science popularisation through a large network of science centres. During last three years he has been a member of the Executive Council of ICOM, Paris and the Chairman of its Asia-Pacific Organisation.

The ICOM, with its headquarters located in the UNESCO, Paris, is the largest professional body of museums in the world. It has about 8000 members spread over 120 countries, devoted to development and management of museums. It renders expert advice to the UNESCO and all museums on specialised subjects like conservation, documentation, security, education and public relations.

Through 24 international committees, ICOM operates new concepts and techniques for museums of all kinds - fine arts, science and technology, natural history, archaeology, ethnography and others.

A team of eleven Indian museologists participated in the General Conference of ICOM in Quebec City. Six of them have been elected in

different international committees of ICOM. They include Dr S S Biswas, Director of Indian Museum, Calcutta (archaeology and history), Shri R M Chakraborty, Director, Nehru Science Centre, Bombay (science and technology), Mr S Goswami, Director of Birla Industrial & Technological Museum, Calcutta (audio-visual), Mr G S Rautela of Hall of Science Technology and Energy, Delhi (education and cultural action), Mr Sujit Soni of National Museum of Man, Bhopal (ethnography), Mr K P V Nair of India International Art Centre, Calcutta (public relations).

Mr S Gorakshkar, Director of Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay, has been elected President of Commonwealth Association of Museums.



Transfer of charge : from Prof Alpha Oumar Kpouri (Mali), past President of ICOM and present President of the Republic of Mali, to Dr Saroj Ghose (India), present President of ICOM.

# NATIONAL SCIENCE SEMINAR



All who participated in the National Science Seminar at Delhi

at the National Science Centre,  
Delhi on October 16, 1992.

The seminar was inaugurated by Dr S Varadarajan, the renowned scientist of the country. The participants spoke for 6 minutes each with the help of charts, slides and other audio visual aids. They spoke in Hindi, English, Assamese and in Nepali.

Dr S Z Qasim, Member, Planning Commission presided over the valedictory function and distributed prizes and certificates to all the 32 participants. Shri Maninderjit Singh, Guru Nanak Public School, Ludhiana, Punjab was adjudged the best participant in the National Science Seminar. He will receive a scholarship of Rs.200/- per month tenable for two years. Nine other participants were declared to be the recipients of scholarship of Rs.100/- per month tenable for two years.



The map shows at a glance the places where state seminars were held and the number of students who participated.

# TEACHERS' TRAINING PROGRAMMES

## BHOPAL

The Regional Science Centre, Bhopal and Madhya Pradesh Council of Science & Technology jointly inaugurated the training of teachers of school science centres at Regional Research Laboratory (CSIR), Bhopal on May 1, 1992 in the seminar hall of the Laboratory.

## BHUBANESWAR

A Teachers' Training Programme for secondary school science teachers was held during July 9 to 18, 1992. The programme was conducted in collaboration with the Board of Secondary Education, Orissa and Pathani Samanta Planetarium, Bhubaneswar. Twenty eight science teachers of Puri district attended the



programme and created fifty four teaching aids. Certificates and kits were distributed to the teachers at the end of the programme.

## PATNA

A Teachers' Training Programme for the local school teachers was organised by Shrikrishna Science Centre, Patna between September 2 to 10, 1992. Six teachers from local schools participated to fabricate seven teaching aids. The course material and guidance were arranged by the Centre. At the end of the programme, the teachers were given these teaching aids with the objective of developing school science clubs in their respective schools.



## TIRUNELVELI

The tenth Teachers' Training Programme of the centre was conducted between June 20-30, 1992. Fourteen teachers from different schools of Tirunelveli participating in the programme were instructed on mechanical,

electrical and carpentry work. They also learned the use of handsaw, hacksaw, soldering iron and other such tools. The participants fabricated ten sets of teaching aids such as magnetic field, optical illusion, linear expansion of metal due to heat, series and parallel connection of resistances. They were also given ideas on how to demonstrate the models effectively in the classrooms. On the last day, a seminar on



the topic "Effective Classroom Communication" was organised.



# SCIENCE CENTRE NEWS

## CALCUTTA

The Birla Industrial & Technological Museum collaborated with the Foundation for Education & Enlightenment to organise a workshop on "Innovations in Education : Trends and

between July 8 and 10 for the secondary school students of Calcutta and its suburbs. Nine film shows were held for 1044 students from fifteen schools and 395 general visitors.

The evolution of the universe is, in many ways, a mystery and the exhibition

collaborated with the Museum to hold this programme between July 14 to 26, 1992. The exhibition had two types of exhibits - one showing the wonder of genetics and the other dealing with the engineering of living matter. The section on genetics conveyed how life began, structure of a cell, role of a nucleus and DNA, while the section on bio-technology focused on preservation of food, agriculture, diseases and vaccines. The exhibition drew 1845 visitors.

## LUCKNOW

A Nature Study Camp was organised by the Regional Science Centre, Lucknow in collaboration with U.P. Vigyan Lekhak Evam Sambaddata Samiti in Ramgarh forest, near Gorakhpur between July 25 to 27. Fifteen students from different schools of Lucknow participated in the Camp. These students were selected



Workshop on "Innovations in Education : Trends and Aspirations"

Aspirations" on July 24-25, 1992. Prof. Satyasadhan Chakraborty, Minister for Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal, inaugurated the programme.

In another programme on July 23, the Museum and Environmental Socio-Economic Data Management Study Centre, organised a seminar on "Outcome of Rio Conference, Brazil". In the discussion that followed the inauguration eight notable environment specialists spoke on various aspects of the topic.

A film festival was organised by the Museum

"BIOPOP : The Engineering of Living Matter" tried, through 40 colourful exhibits and eighteen bio-news booths, to answer many queries that often haunt our minds. The Alliance Francaise, Calcutta



A view of the exhibition 'BIOPOP - the Engineering of Living Matter'

# SCIENCE CENTRE NEWS



Inauguration of the exhibition at Dhenkanal by Shri Biju Patnaik, in presence of Shri Arjun Singh and Shri K P Singh Deo

through an Environmental Quiz contest organised by the Centre. In the camp, the students were encouraged to be environment friendly, observe different species of plant available in the forest, collect and preserve natural objects and record their experience.

In another programme, organised by the Centre, and the Food and Nutrition Department of the Union Government and Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy, a two day seminar on "Nutrition, Natural Diet and Health" was conducted. About 20 institutions from Uttar Pradesh and other states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Bihar participated in the seminar.

The Centre held its third anniversary celebrations on September 7-9, 1992 at its auditorium. A Fish Gallery was inaugurated on this day. Other

programmes included a software competition and two popular lectures on "Decorative fishes and their breeding techniques" and "Aquarium Management".



Mobile Science Exhibition on "Time", Nagpur

## NAGPUR

The new Mobile Science Exhibition unit "Time" was inaugurated on July 10, 1992 at Raman Science Centre, Nagpur. Time is something which is impossible to describe, yet every activity in

this Universe is tied up with the concept of time. As man progressed, he found ways of dividing one day into many units, and this eventually led to a more organised society. An attempt has been made through this exhibition to provide an experience on the various facets of Time.

## DHENKANAL

The National Council of Science Museums, the Regional Science Centre, Bhubaneswar and the Department of Science & Technology, Government of Orissa, held a special programme at the site for

Sub-Regional Science Centre, Dhenkanal, on July 6, 1992. Present on the occasion were Shri Arjun Singh, Union Minister for HRD and Shri Biju Patnaik, Chief Minister of Orissa. Shri K P Singh Deo, M.P., Dhenkanal, presided over the function, while Shri



MSE exhibit on "Our Universe"

Arjun Singh performed the "Bhumi Puja".

A Mobile Science Exhibition (MSE) on "Our Universe" was flagged off on that day.

The MSE was later shifted to B.B. High School, Dhenkanal to hold a special exhibition for two days which coincided with the centenary celebration of the school.

## GULBARGA

The District Science Centre, Gulbarga, organised a bakery demonstration programme between August 26-27. 150 housewives participated in the workshop and learned the basics of baking bread and making biscuits.

The centre also organised three collaborative programmes in July and September. These included a popular lecture on "Abuse of

modern antibiotics in medical practice"; an open house quiz on science and technology and a symposium on 'Acute abdomen in your angle'.

## TIRUNELVELI

In a community training programme held in collaboration with Smart Society, the District Science Centre Tirunelveli on June 3 & 4, imparted training to 18 ladies on the preparation of Detergent Powder, Shampoo, Cleaning Powder, liquid blue, washing liquid for glass ware and phenyl.

In a similar programme conducted again in collaboration with Smart Society between June 6 to 11, workshop on preparation of white ant destroyer, soap, Ink, face powder and tooth powder was conducted. Techniques involved in the manufacture of the items and the characteristics of the chemicals were taught to the 14 participating house-wives. Precautionary measures while preparing the items, type of soap and maintaining the stability of ink were also part of the workshop discussions.

District Science Centre, in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Family Welfare Department on July 11, 1992, celebrated World Population Day at



Preparation of liquid blue, Tirunelveli

Kombandanur village with a special population awareness programme for the rural people. Eminent people held forth on the subject about misconceptions and social stigmas attached to family planning and highlighted the benefits of having a small family. An exhibition on Family Welfare Turning Point was held at that village on the day.

A Creative Ability Programme in chemistry on catalysis was conducted from July 7 to 31, at the Centre.



Preparation of bread, Gulbarga

# SCIENCE CENTRE NEWS



Science play "Hiroshima", Tirunelveli

Students from five schools attended the programme. They were given ideas on catalysis and its utility. They conducted the practicals and learnt about the catalysts.

The Centre observed Hiroshima Day on August 6, 1992 with a series of popular lectures, a science play and a demonstration of radiation testing equipments. In a lecture on "What is a nuclear bomb", the construction of the bomb and the amount of the energy derived from it was explained to an audience of 200 people. The beneficial effects of radiation was emphasised on in the lectures. Other lectures were on topics like safety of nuclear reactors, their importance and the energy derived from them. Later in the evening, a special demonstration on how to detect radiation using various equipments, was conducted exclusively for nuclear physics

students of M.S. University, Tirunelveli.

## DHARAMPUR

"Advance training in pre-school science education" - a training programme to impart vocational training to youths,

unemployed housewives, Balwadis, Anganwadi workers, started on August 4, 1992. The programme offered the participants hands-on training in preparation of science kits for children, its effective utilisation in pre-school sections, practice teaching in use of art of puppetry, child songs, drama and organisation of creative activities, functioning in ICDS Anganwadis, Balwadis and montessori sections.



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